## Message Text

## CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SOFIA 00101 171528Z ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ERDA-05 CIAE-00 H-01 INR-07 IO-13 L-03 NSAE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-04 PRS-01 SAJ-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00 DODE-00 NSC-05 ACDA-07 CU-02 BIB-01 /090 W

-----171541Z 066956 /43

R 171341Z JAN 77

FM AMEMBASSY SOFIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2247

INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY WARSAW AMCONSUL MUNICH

USNATO BRUSSELS 516

CONFIDENTIAL SOFIA 0101

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CSCE, PINS, PROP, BU

SUBJECT: BASKET III AND RADIO FREE EUROPE

REF: A. SOFIA 2606; B. STATE 305841

1. AS REPORTED SEPTEL, FOREIGN MINISTER MLADENOV WAS GENERALLY FORTHCOMING WITH RESPECT TO BASKET III ISSUES, OR AT ANY RATE NOT DISCOURAGING. MAJOR EXCEPTION TO THIS WAS HIS REACTION WHEN AMBASSADOR OBSERVED THAT BULGARIA IS STILL JAMMING FOREIGN RADIO BROADCASTS AND THAT WE REGARD THIS AS CONTRARY TO GOALS OF THE FINAL ACT. AMB SAID THAT MAJORITY OF EASTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES ARE NO LONGER JAMMING AND CITED CSCE LANGUAGE. ALTHOUGH INTERVIEW HAD ALREADY TAKEN WELL OVER AN HOUR, MLADENOV SAID HE WISHED TO REPLY IN DETAIL. CONFIDENTIAL

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2. MLADENOV SAID HE WISHED TO POINT OUT FIRST OF ALL THAT BULGARIA JAMMED NO "NATIONAL STATIONS", ALL THAT (IN HIS VIEW) CSCE REQUIRED. IF AMBASSADOR MEANT RFE, IT WAS "A REMNANT OF COLD WAR" AND SHOULD BE CLOSED SINCE ITS VERY EXISTENCE WAS INCONSISTENT WITH HELSINKI SPIRIT. IN AN EMOTIONAL ATTACK ON STATION, MLADENOV CALLED IT "ABSOLUTELY IRRES-

PONSIBLE" AND SAID IT INSULTED AND SLANDERED BULGARIAN LEADERS AND "BULGARIAN SACRED THINGS," EVEN GEORGI DIMITROV, IN "MOST VULGAR TERMS." HE SAID (INTERESTINGLY ENOUGH IN ITSELF) THAT HE RECEIVED TRANSCRIPTS OF RFE BROADCASTS DAILY. HE ADDED THAT US WOULD NEVER TOLERATE SUCH PERSONAL ATTACKS ON ITS LEADERS AND CLAIMED THAT NO SUCH ATTACKS HAD BEEN MADE "FROM OUR SIDE" EVEN AT TIME OF VIETNAMESE WAR AND WATERGATE

- 3. AMBASSADOR THEN DREW DISTINCTION BETWEEN DIFFERENCE OF PHILOSOPHY AND DIFFERENCE OVER VERIFIABLE FACTS. WE DO NOT BELIEVE THAT RFE IS ENGAGED IN INSULTING AND SLANDERING ANYONE AND HAVE SEEN NO RECENT EVIDENCE THAT WOULD SUPPORT THAT ACCUSATION. WE WOULD BE INTERESTED TO SEE ANY EVIDENCE THAT FOREIGN MINISTER HAD IN THAT REGARD.
- 4. IN THE END IT WAS AGREED THAT MLADENOV WOULD HAVE EXAMPLES CULLED FOR US FROM TAPES IN GOB'S POSSESSION, DOCUMENTING HIS ACCUSATION OF RFE "INSULTING AND SLANDERING WITH GROSS LANGUAGE THE (BULGARIAN) LEADERSHIP" DURING THE PERIOD JANUARY 1 TO 15, 1977. AMB SAID WE WOULD HOLD A SIMILAR REVIEW ON OUR SIDE; THEN BOTH SIDES WOULD GET TOGETHER AND SEE WHAT IT IS THAT BULGARIA CAN LEGITIMATELY OBJECT TO.
- 5. COMMENT: WE DO NOT KNOW WHETHER THERE WILL BE ANY FOLLOW-UP BY THE GOB TO THIS DISCUSSION, BUT IT IS POSSIBLE THEY MAY PREPARE SOME KIND OF COCUMENTATION OF "PERSONAL ATTACKS" AGAINST BULGARIA'S PRESENT OR PAST CONFIDENTIAL

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COMMUNIST LEADERSHIP IF THEY CAN FIND IT IN THEIR MATERIAL FROM JANUARY 1 TO 15. WE SHOULD MAKE A CAREFUL SEARCH ON OUR SIDE. IF RFE IS OPERATING WITHIN THE GUIDELINES ESTABLISHED FOR IT BY THE BOB, THERE SHOULD BE NO PERSONAL ATTACKS OR "SLANDERS", BUT ONLY FACTS AND INTERPRETATIONS WHICH OF COURSE DIFFER SIGNIFICANTLY FROM THOSE OF BULGARIAN COMMUNIST PROPAGANDA. IF THE EXERCISE OF JOINTLY LOOKING AT THE RECORD TAKES PLACE, WE WILL BE PREPARED TO DEFEND THE RFE RECORD ON THE BASIS THAT IT CONFORMS TO THE CSCE PRINCIPLE OF "DISSEMINATING INFORMATION OF ALL KINDS."

6. FOR MUNICH: PLEASE SEND FULL TRANSCRIPTS FOR JAN 1-15 PERIOD. HERZ

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	Margaret P. Grafeld	Declassified/Released	US Department of State	EO Systematic Review	22 May 2009
NNN					

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